

~~INFORMATIONAL~~ ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

REPORT NO.

CD NO.

COUNTRY Cuba

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DATE DISTR. ³ Mar 1949

SUBJECT FEU Demonstrations Against Bus Fare Increase

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**SUPPLEMENT TO
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1. The University of Habana students who participated in street disturbances allegedly created by the Partido Socialista Popular (PSP-Cuban Communist Party) during the latter part of January, in protest against a bus fare increase, were led by pro-Communist leaders of the Federacion Estudiantil Universitaria (FEU).
2. Flavio Bravo, president of the Juventud Socialista (PSP youth group), Lionel Soto, pro-Communist FEU leader, and other FEU delegates, attended several meetings of the PSP to arrange for public demonstrations against the new bus fare. In accordance with Blas Roca's instructions, Severo Aguirre, Propaganda Secretary of the PSP National Committee, and Carlos Font Pupo, Secretary of the medical section of the Cuban-Soviet Cultural Institute, directed Bravo, Soto and other Communist students as to the course of action to be followed.
3. Source believes that nearly all of the FEU, except the Communist-led Pharmacy School, was against any demonstration pertaining to the bus fare. However, after the police-student fight on the University Campus, the other schools joined in the demonstration.*
4. Although PSP agitators will be ready to utilize any further opportunity to cause trouble, their chance has passed since several sectors of the FEU have begun to lose interest in the entire campaign.
5. Union Insurreccional Revolucionaria (UIR) leaders belonging to the FEU have resolved to rid the FEU of its Communist leaders and once more put anti-Communists at the head of that organization before 1 March 1949.

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Comment. The Cuban National Police caused the principal disturbance by attacking Orlando Bosch, anti-Communist Secretary General of the FEU and President of the School of Medicine, who was accompanied by a group of students. The National Police followed some of the escaping students to the University. The sound of police gunfire disturbed other students who left their classrooms and joined in the disorder.

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